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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BRANCH
ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER NO. 10

August 4, 1944

FRESH PRODUCTS STANDARDIZATION AND INSPECTION DIVISION

Copies of Market Inspection Handbook for Pears dated July 1944 have been mailed to inspection offices.

CHANGE IN U. S. STANDARDS FOR NORTHERN GROWN ONIONS.

Copies of the U. S. Standards for Northern Grown Onions, effective July 31, 1944, have been mailed to inspectors.

The important changes are as follows:

U. S. No. 1 Grade: The definition of doubles and splits has been changed to conform with definitions for these defects in our other U. S. Standards for onions. A change has been made in the definition of damage by staining so as to specificall cover both staining and dirt.

U. S. No. 1 Boiler Grade: The maximum size has been changed from 1-5/8 inches to 1-7/8 inches.

U. S. Commercial Grade: There is an increase in the percentage of stained onions permitted before the lot is considered seriously damaged.

U. S. No. 2 Grade: This is a new grade added to our standards for Northern Grown onions. Inspectors should note that there is no requirement as to staining or dirt in this grade.

IN THE U. S. STANDARDS FOR SWEET POTATOES effective August 21, 1944, the following changes have been made:

U. S. Extra No. 1 Grade: The maximum length was changed from 8 to 10 inches and the maximum weight from 16 to 20 ounces.

U. S. No. 1 and U. S. No. 2 Grades: Both of these grades require sweet potatoes to be of "one type" instead of "have similar varietal characteristics." The requirements of 3 ounce minimum weight has been deleted.

Cuts, Bruises and Scars: Cuts, bruises and scars which are unhealed are permitted in all grades provided they meet certain requirements regarding appearance and waste which are covered by definitions of damage and serious damage.

Temporary shipping point inspection offices

ARKANSAS	Peaches	Federal-State Inspection Service, Van Buren, Ark.
GEORGIA	Peaches	502 Grand Bldg., Macon, Ga. Telephone 7733. P. O. Box 1157.
ILLINOIS	Peaches	Federal-State Inspection Service, 123 West Vienna Street, Anna, Illinois
SOUTH CAROLINA	Peaches	T. W. Ayres, Federal-State Inspection Service, c/o County Agent's Office, Post Office Bldg., Spartanburg, South Carolina.

NOTES:

There are now two inspectors , George Chick and Merritt Caldwell stationed at the State House, Augusta, Maine to make commercial condition inspections of fresh fruits and vegetables and also inspections for the War Shipping Administration at Portland, Maine. Notation to this effect should be made on redeiving market address lists.

Edward C. Mills of Columbus, Ohio, Leon Scott of Jackson, Mississippi and Dayton Young of New Orleans, Louisiana have been appointed Collaborators to help with the fresh fruit and vegetable inspections in those offices.

Bolling Hall of the New Orleans office has been transferred to the New York City office.

E. E. Conklin, Chief.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATION MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Location	In Charge	Commodity	Prob. Closing Date
Anna, Illinois	L. N. Gillespie	Peaches	Aug. 9 - Aug. 19
Benton Harbor, Mich. 206 P.O. Bldg.	R. E. Keller	Misc. F & V.	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31
Fresno, Calif 317 Holan Bldg.	J. A. Hunter	Grapes & Cants.	July 20 - Nov. 12
Milton-Freewater, Oregon	R. G. Risser	Fresh plums and prunes	Aug. 14 - Aug. 31

Following offices closed on dates indicated:

Allendale, S. C.	D. R. Hall	Watermelons	July 5 - July 25
Cordele, Ga.	R. M. Peterson	"	June 19 - July 27
Hamlet, N. C.	J. H. Selby	Peaches & Wmls.	July 1 - Aug. 4
Macon, Ga.	R. E. Keller	Peaches	May 29 - July 22
Nashville, Ark.	L. N. Gillespie	Peaches	July 10 - Aug. 5
Onley, Va.	S. W. Russell	Potatoes	May 15 - July 22
Phoenix, Ariz.	P. R. Le Ger	Cantaloups	July 5 - July 26

C. D. Schoolcraft, Chief.

FRESH MARKETING DIVISION

Industry Meeting

WFA and OPA held a joint meeting with the Concord Grape Producer-Processor Industry Advisory Committee August 2, 1944. Some of the topics discussed were Government requirements for processed grape products, grades for grapes for processing, storage, and price ceiling programs.

WFO-108

Reports have been received indicating that processors have already contracted for approximately 111,000 tons of pears, which is sufficient to meet Government requirements of canned pears.

Potato Price Ceiling Adjustments

Requests were received from the States of New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Kansas, Missouri, Texas, Ohio, for increases in their price ceilings due to low yields. Amendment No. 19, RMPR 271, grants an increase of 90 cents per cwt. over the August price ceiling for the New England States, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, W. Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio. Additional information is being obtained with requests for increases in ceiling prices in the States of Kansas, Missouri, Texas, Nebraska, Indiana, Wisconsin and North Carolina.

Amendment to Price Support Program

An amendment eliminating the 10 cents per cwt. discount on used bags when such bags are thoroughly cleaned, [illegible] amended and turned was made in connection with the support price program on potatoes.

Potato Meeting Held in Midwest Region

At a meeting of potato growers and shippers held at Grand Forks, North Dakota July 28 and 29, a committee comprising about ten persons is to be selected to work on potato improvement program, which is to include (1) varieties more suitable to meet consumer preferences, (2) better grading and packing, (3) the use of low grade potatoes for feed and byproduct used, (4) advertising potatoes as a wholesome food products, and (5), stimulation of consumption of potatoes to reverse the decreased per capita consumption.

Vegetable Situation

The recent dry weather in most midwestern and eastern areas has served to curtail or prevent entirely the development of several surplus situations anticipated some time ago. Purchases of beets and snap beans in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania have been very light.

A minor surplus of Colorado green peas has been anticipated in view of the indicated record high production in that State. An authorization has been approved to make pruchases, if necessary, in Colorado at $1.65 per bushel U. S. No. 1 Grade.

A serious marketing situation is likely to develop for Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut tomatoes, as canners may not be able to handle peak harvesting during the last half of August and early September. This peak is expected to be unusually heavy this year. There was a delay in getting early plants successfully started last spring and this will result in early and late plantings maturing over a shorter period than usual.

L. S. Fenn, Acting Chief.

PROCESSED PRODUCTS STANDARDIZATION AND INSPECTION DIVISION

Temporary Field Station

A temporary field station was opened August 1, at Roanoke, Virginia, which Philip B. Shiff and Peter J. Swaluk have been detailed to operate.

Hugh C. Landes has assumed charge of the office at Yakima, Washington.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES SECTION

Code Symbols

Some confusion has arisen as a result of seemingly conflicting information contained in General Administrative Instruction No. 5100 (copies obtainable through Regional Administrative Services Division) and code symbols as they appear on Letters of Authorization being issued from Washington. It is necessary to use all seven places in the code symbol; however, States and Cities (as illustrated in G.A.I. 5100) are not to be shown in instances where a Branch such as ours, operates at the Regional level. Due to the fact that this Branch does operate at a Regional level, we must indicate States and Cities (because 7 places in the code symbol are required) by zeros. Thus, code symbols as indicated on Letters of Authorization issued from Washington are correct and must be shown on expense accounts, requistions, etc., in like manner.

W. C. Hasbrouck
Administrative Officer.